



Asian Americans
for
Community
Involvement

Santa Clara County, Incorporated

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Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund (HNVF) Advisory Committee
Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
200 East Santa Clara Street, 9th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Attn: Josephine Browne

RE: Ratings on Cycle 8 Application #867

Dear HNVF Advisory Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ratings that our HNVF proposal received. We would like to dispute three of the ratings we received.

I. Project Outcome Category

We received a "low" in the project outcome category, although we believe we meet the guidelines for "high" described on page 24 of the HNVF Cycle 8 Application and Information Packet:

Applicant presents two intermediate performance measures that are clearly stated and measure the intended results of the project. There is a very clear connection between the performance measures, the services provided, and the needs addressed. Performance measures are quantifiable and supported by clear measurement methods.

In our proposal, we stated the following related to intermediate performance measures:

- *40 seniors participating in the Senior Wellness Project will have increased knowledge about the dangers of tobacco use, and if appropriate will have been referred to suitable resources, including health screenings and smoking cessation programs.*
- *36 seniors participating in the Senior Wellness Program will receive nutritious hot lunches served 4 days/week*
- *Seniors participating in the Senior Wellness Program will receive 400 hours of case management, which will help allow them to maintain optimum physical and mental health, access affordable preventive and treatment health services and receive appropriate type and levels of affordable services to maximize their independence.*



A United Way Agency

The methods used to measure performance include agency records for case management that note details about services provided. Testing is also done to evaluate student knowledge pre- and post- for ESL and citizenship classes. As needed, surveys are done to solicit input on programming.

II. Work Plan Category

We received a “medium” in the work plan category, and PRNS staff noted that our work plan did not match information provided in the “project outcomes” narrative. However, the three intermediate performance measures bulleted above were in fact listed in our work plan.

III. Past Performance Category

AACI is somewhat unusual in that we received HNVF funding in Cycle 6 but opted out of Cycle 7. As a result, we are being rated on our past performance only in Cycle 6 (FY05-06) and received a “medium” because PRNS staff report that one activity schedule was not submitted. We understand that last year, many non-profits objected to the ratings they received for past performance in Cycle 6 and stated that they submitted reports when staff said they had not, and the HNVF committee consequently removed the “timeliness of reports” component of past performance. We believe that our Cycle 6 past performance rating should also not include the “timeliness of reports” component, and we should receive a “high” rating for past performance. We believe that we have made a good faith effort to comply with all HNVF reporting.

As the largest non-profit community based organization focused on the Asian American community in San Jose, AACI has been providing high quality senior wellness services for over 10 years, primarily to an underserved population of low-income, non-English speaking Asian seniors. We hope to be able to continue our work with HNVF support. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me at (408) 975-2730 or michele.lew@aaci.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Lew', written over a horizontal line.

Michele Lew
President and CEO